

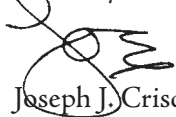
Dear Neighbor,

I am deeply honored that you have expressed your confidence in my ability, caring and accomplishments, and have given me the privilege of serving you once again in the state Senate. I look forward to continuing our discussion of issues before the General Assembly now that the 2005 legislative session is underway.

One of my top priorities concerns the many residents in our state who remain without health care coverage, and the increasing number of individuals and businesses for whom coverage has become unaffordable. I also believe that we must take steps to address the growing problem of obesity among children, a condition that has become a major public health concern. These are some of the issues that the Insurance Committee, which I co-chair, has begun to address.

Please take a moment to read about these and other matters covered in this newsletter. As always, I invite your comments, ideas and opinions.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.



STATE SENATOR

JOE CRISCO

Legislative Office Building, Room 2800
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL PHONE: 1-800-842-1420

E-MAIL: Crisco@senatedems.ct.gov

WEB: www.senatedems.ct.gov/Crisco.html

*Representing the 17th District: Ansonia, Beacon Falls,
Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck & Woodbridge*

Legislative Office Building, Room 2800
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO. 3937



Students from Amity Regional Junior High School and Amity High School recently participated in the CT Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking Youth Summit at the State Capitol.

JOE CRISCO *Your State Senator*

2005 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Insurance

As Senate chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I am planning a number of initiatives that include:

- The Nutmeg Partnership—a health care coverage program partnering the state with individuals, with businesses, and with other entities so as to broaden health care coverage in the state
- Insurance company reimbursements for physicians, fairness in contracts with HMOs and health insurers, and reduced paperwork

We also plan to look into questionable insurance practices and medical malpractice liability insurance.

Important Update: Status of the Biomedical Research Trust Fund

Several years ago I worked for passage of a Biomedical Research Trust Fund that would provide grants to hospitals and medical schools for research into heart disease, cancer and other smoking-related illnesses. I'm pleased to report that funds recently have been released, and the requests for funding under this program have been overwhelming. Other recipients will be named shortly.

- **Restricted Stem Cell Research:** I proposed legislation that would provide grants to hospitals, medical schools and companies for stem cell research—an avenue that offers hope to individuals suffering from some of the most debilitating, and currently incurable, diseases. I'm pleased to report that the Public Health Committee passed a bill that would permit stem cell research and prohibit human cloning.
- **Reversing Child Obesity:** My school vending machine bill would prohibit each public elementary and middle school from selling soda, candy or any other food that has minimal nutritional value from a vending machine within the school.

Constituents' Corner

I recently intervened with the Department of Social Services so that a critically ill constituent could obtain life-supporting prescription drugs. Helping my constituents is the most rewarding aspect of my job as state senator. I invite you to call my office if you feel that I can be of assistance to you.